

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 09280 222156Z

63

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSC-01

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R 222128Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1500

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 9280

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PINT

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE CHANGES IN GOC CABINET

1. A WELL INFORMED, SENIOR CATHOLIC BISHOP TOLD EMBOFFS SEPTEMBER 22 THAT HE HAD INFORMATION FROM AN EXCELLENT SOURCE THAT A FEW CABINET SHIFTS WILL TAKE PLACE SOON. HE WAS TOLD THAT DEFENSE MINISTER MAJOR GENERAL HERMAN BRADY WILL BE REPLACED BY MAJOR GENERAL CARLOS FORESTIER HAENSGEN, NOW CHIEF OF THE ARMY GENERAL STAFF. BRADY WILL BE RETIRED. JUSTICE MINISTER SCHWITZER AND LABOR MINISTER SERGIO FERNANDEZ ALSO WILL BE SACKED.

2. THE BISHOP COMMENTED THAT MANY HOLD BRADY PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ARMY'S RECENT ATTEMPT TO CUT OUT THE CARABINEROS FROM THEIR ASSOCIATION WITH THE ARMED FORCES. BRADY HAD TO APOLOGIZE TO THE CARABINEROS FOR WHAT HE TOLD THEM WAS A MISTAKE, AND HIS REMOVAL WOULD BE A FURTHER PLACATORY MOVE TOWARD THE CARABINEROS. THE BISHOP UNDERSTOOD, HOWEVER, THAT THE CARABINEROS FELT VERY STRONGLY ABOUT THE INCIDENT, AND HE DOUBTED THAT BRADY'S REMOVAL WOULD ENTIRELY RELIEVE THE ANIMUS.

3. COMMENT: BEFORE THE CARABINEROS INCIDENT OF TWO WEEKS AGO WE HAD HEARD REPORTS THAT BRADY WOULD BE REMOVED; HE COULD WELL SERVE NOW AS A SCAPEGOAT FOR THE AFFRONT TO THE CARABINEROS. HE IS ALSO ONE OF THE FEW ARMY GENERALS REMAINING IN ACTIVE SERVICE WHO HAVE -- OR HAVE HAD -- CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE CHRISTIAN
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PAGE 02 SANTIA 09280 222156Z

DEMOCRATS. MOREOVER, HE IS NEAR REGULAR RETIREMENT. FORESTIER

WOULD BE THE LOGICAL REPLACEMENT FOR BRADY,, CONSIDERING THE
CHILEAN ARMED FORCES' ADHERENCE TO THE SENIORITY PRINCIPLE.
POPPER

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NNN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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04 MAY 2006

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To: STATE
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